

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7530

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLES ON MEXICAN
NARCOTICS PROBLEMS

REF: A) MEXICO 3450; B) MEXICO 3483

S/NM FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

IGA FOR TODD

DEA FOR EOI - CUSACK

ARA FOR LUERS

1. INFLUENTIAL DAILY EXCELSIOR ON APRIL 29 CARRIED ARTICLE
BY GADFLY COLUMNIST SAMUEL I. DEL VILLAR. ENTITLED "VULNERABILITY
TO OFREIGN AGENCIES," COLUMN AT FIRST TOOK HONDURAS TO TASK
FOR "UNITED GRANDS" SCANDAL AND FOR THE MORAL WEAKNESS WHICH
EXPOSED HONDURAS TO THE HUMILIATION OF HAVING THE SCANDAL
DISCOVERED BY A FOREIGN AGENCY (IN THIS CASE THE SEC).

2. BUT DEL VILLAR QUICKLY ADMITTED THAT MEXICO IS NOT IMMUNE
TO THIS VULNERABILITY EITHER, ALTHOUGH IT CAN DEFEND ITSELF
BETTER THAN THE SMALLER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. AS EXAMPLE
OF THIS WEAKNESS, HE CITED THE RECENT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE,
WHICH HE ERRONEOUSLY ALLEGED WAS "BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED
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BY MR. ROBERT EYMAN, DIRECTOR IN MEXICO OF THE NORTH AMERICAN

NARCOTIC POLICE." ARTICLE CHARGED THAT U.S. POLICE HAVE A LIST OF 70 "FAT FISH," ONE OF WHOM WAS HIGH OFFICIAL OF AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY (SEE REF A). THIS CHARGE DENIED BY MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEL VILLAR SAID, AND ADDED AG PRODUCED TESTIMONIES BY MR. EYMAN'S SUPERVISORS TO SUPPORT HIS DENIAL. DEL VILLAR DOES NOT QUESTION AG'S DENIAL, BUT IT DOES NOT INSTILL CONFIDENCE IN MEXICAN CAPACITY TO AVOID PUBLIC CORRUPTION. DENIAL WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONVINCING IF, IN ADDITION TO DESCRIBING GOM ANTI-NARCOTICS SUCCESSES, IT HAD ALSO LISTED THE SUCCESSES ACHIEVED AGAINST CORRUPTION, HE NOTED.

3. NOT ONLY DOES CORRUPTION ALLOW NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS TO WEAKEN AND HUMILIATE MEXICO, DEL VILLAR SAID, BUT IT ALSO ALLOWS FOREIGN COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO DO THE SAME THING FOR THEIR OWN ENDS. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS SAID CIA OPERATES WIDELY IN MEXICO; IT DOUBTLESS WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, AS LONG AS THERE IS NO NATIONAL CAPACITY TO AVOID CORRUPTION, HE ENDED, CALLING FOR CONCRETE STEPS FOR GOM SYSTEMATICALLY TO INVESTIGATE, PUNISH AND RESTRICT CORRUPTION.
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